

CATAPHRYXUS SHIINO, 1936 (CRUSTACEA, ISOPODA),  
PROPOSED CONSERVATION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS  
Z.N.(S.) 2217

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The object of this proposal is to eliminate confusion between two different nominal genera of bopyrid isopods, *Epiphrixus* Nierstrasz & Brender à Brandis, 1932, and *Epiphryxus* Shiino, 1934, and to validate the technically invalid treatment of their names as homonyms.

2. Caroli (1930), recognising that the generic name *Phryxus* Rathke, 1843, was a junior homonym of *Phryxus* Hübner, 1819 in Lepidoptera, proposed as a replacement name the alternate spelling *Phrixus*, even though he was aware of the available name *Hemiarthrus* Giard & Bonnier, 1887 (: 36), which had been proposed expressly as a replacement name for *Phryxus* Rathke. Although *Hemiarthrus* is now accepted as the correct name for that genus (for discussion see Markham, 1972), confusion in the spelling of names derived from *Phryxus* or *Phrixus* persists.

3. Nierstrasz & Brender à Brandis (1932: 99), accepting Caroli's name *Phrixus*, described a closely related genus which they named *Epiphrixus*, type-species *Epiphrixus adriaticus* Nierstrasz & Brender à Brandis. Shiino (1934: 281), unaware of the paper by Nierstrasz & Brender à Brandis, described yet another closely related genus, which he named *Epiphryxus*, type-species, by monotypy, *Epiphryxus primus* Shiino. Upon subsequently learning of the existence of *Epiphrixus*, he regarded *Epiphryxus* Shiino as a junior homonym of it and proposed the replacement name *Cataphryxus* Shiino, 1936 (: 172-173) for *Epiphryxus* Shiino, 1934.

4. According to Article 56a of the Code, generic names distinguished by a single letter are not homonyms, so *Epiphryxus* did not need to be replaced and consequently *Cataphryxus* should be regarded as a junior objective synonym of the valid name *Epiphryxus* and thus invalid. Unfortunately, if this principle were followed in the present case, considerable confusion would result, because (a) the genera *Epiphrixus* and *Epiphryxus* belong to the same subfamily, (b) there is no distinction between the pronunciation of the two names, and (c) it has been a common, though deplorable, practice among several authors to spell all names ending in the element *-phrixus* or *-phryxus* in a single manner regardless of their respective original spellings. Thus the distinction in spelling between *Epiphrixus* and *Epiphryxus* is likely to be obscured.

5. Suppression of the senior objective synonym *Epiphryxus* Shiino would automatically make the name *Cataphryxus* valid for the genus in question, thereby formally approving the express purpose of Shiino (1936) in proposing the latter name.

6. The Commission is therefore asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the generic name *Epiphryxus* Shiino, 1934, for the purposes of the Law of Priority, but not for those of the Law of Homonymy;
- (2) to place the following names on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
  - (a) *Epiphrixus* Nierstrasz & Brender à Brandis, 1932 (gender, masculine), type-species, by monotypy, *Epiphrixus adriaticus* Nierstrasz & Brender à Brandis;
  - (b) *Cataphryxus* Shiino, 1936 (gender, masculine), type-species, through *Epiphryxus* Shiino, 1934, *Epiphryxus primus* Shiino, 1934;
- (3) to place the following names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
  - (a) *adriaticus* Nierstrasz & Brender à Brandis, 1932, as published in the binomen *Epiphrixus adriaticus* (specific name of type-species of *Epiphrixus* Nierstrasz & Brender à Brandis, 1932);
  - (b) *primus* Shiino, 1934, as published in the binomen *Epiphryxus primus* (specific name of type-species of *Cataphryxus* Shiino, 1936);
- (4) to place the generic name *Epiphryxus* Shiino, 1934, as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) above, on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology.

#### REFERENCES

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